



International Society for Tracer
and Radiation Applications

Volume 03

n e w s l e t t e r

Issue
01/2020

RTC on training and certification on radiotracers and gamma scanning, IAEA Seibersdorf Laboratories, 9-20 December 2019

The European regional project RER1020 «Developing Radiotracer Techniques and Nuclear Control Systems for the Protection and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Ecosystems » aims enhancing and consolidating regional capability in online industrial process diagnosis, optimization and troubleshooting, using radiotracers and sealed source techniques. In the frame of this project a Course on “Training and Certification on Radiotracers Applications and Column Scanning, it was performed at the IAEA Seibersdorf Laboratories, from 9 to 20 December 2019. The main objective of the course was the training and certification of practitioners on radiotracers and gamma scanning techniques at Level 1+2, according to the ISTRA program on training and certification, which is recognized internationally. There were 13 participants from 11 European countries who attended this course.

It is well known that operation conditions of processing units are very important to the industry, since any malfunctioning of these units could represent millions of Euros wasted. Industries like chemical and petrochemicals, wastewater treatment plants, cement manufacturing and mineral ore processing are the major end users of radiotracer and sealed radioisotope sources techniques. They enhance quality, productivity, reliability and safety, as well as improve efficiency, reduce production down-time and industrial pollution.

The quality of radioisotope service providers is crucial to the success of implementation of the radioisotope technologies. The RTC trained and certified these specialists. Residence time distribution (RTD) measurement, data treatment and modelling, flow rate measurement and leak detection, gamma scanning were the main subjects of the course.

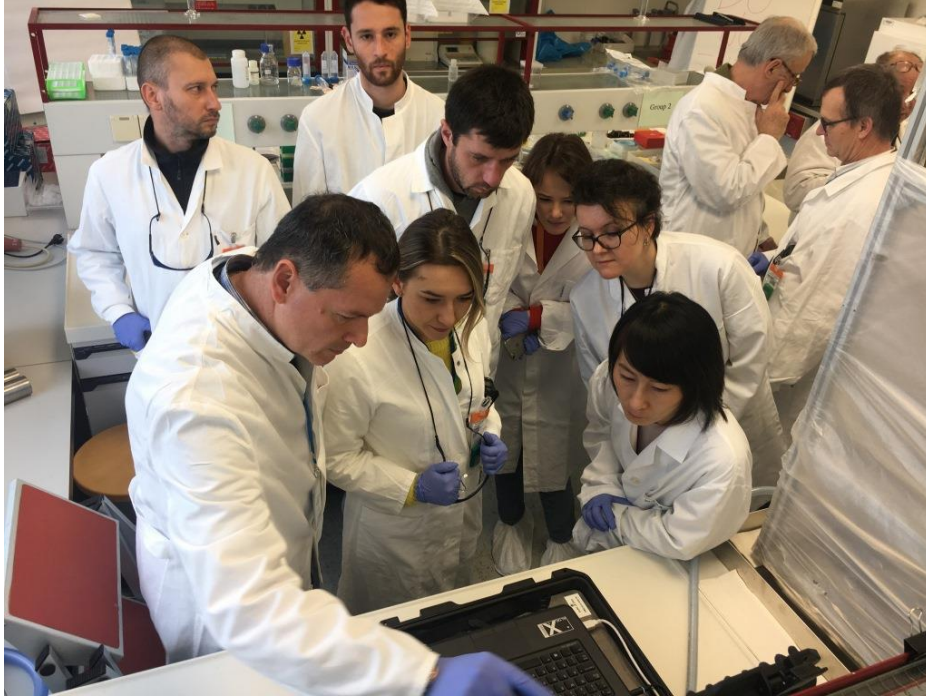


At a lesson in the classroom

The experimental work on radiotracers was carried out in two flow rigs and in a gamma scanning set up.



Performing the gamma scanning of a laboratory tray column



Gerardo explaining experimental results

The examination was conducted according to ISTR A scheme for certification in level two. They consisted of three modules on radiation protection and radiation physics, radiotracers and sealed sources. 26 certificates were provided to the 13 participants.

The RTC was completed successfully. There is good potential for application of radioisotope techniques in industry in Europe and potential end users have been identifying in several member states. The basic formation of service provider specialists has been achieving.

IAEA regional RER 1020 project is assisting member states in promoting and implementing radioisotope and radiation techniques to industrial end users. Training and certification are important part of the project for transferring the technologies to member states.



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The preparation of radiotracer and gamma scanning practitioners at Level 1+2 is a trend worldwide as part of quality assurance and accreditation. It helps radiotracer groups to promote and introduce radiotracer technology faster and easier to their end users in national and regional scale. The formation of specialists at Level 1+2 is a continuous process and the demand for training and certification is high.

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